

# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



## WORKING FAMILIES AGENDA 2002

### LANGUAGE RIGHTS POLICY INITIATIVES

#### *Protecting the Rights of English Language Learners in California's Public Schools*

#### **PRINCIPLE: ENSURE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS HAVE A FAIR AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND SUCCEED.**

The more than 1.5 million English Language Learners constitute a quarter of the total enrollment in public schools. An overwhelming majority, or 82 percent, of English Language Learners speak Spanish. There is a growing need to address issues impacting all English Language Learners. English Language Learners are concentrated in our elementary grades, with 70 percent enrolled in kindergarten through grade six. According to the Department of Education, over 90,000 English Language Learners did not receive any instructional services required for these students.

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:**

- STRENGTHEN PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.
- STRENGTHEN EXISTING LAWS REGARDING TEACHER CREDENTIALING FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.
- PROVIDE ADEQUATE RESOURCES FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TO ALLOW FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS.

#### *Parents' Rights*

**SB 1595 (ESCUTIA)** English Learners  
Parents' Rights

#### *Teacher Credentialing*

**SB 1547 (SOTO)** Teacher Credentialing

#### *English Language Learners*

**AB 2604 (OROPEZA)** Teacher Cultural  
Competency

#### *Student Achievement & Assessment*

**SB 2083 (POLANCO)** No Child Left Behind  
Act

**AB 741 (FIREBAUGH)** English Learners:  
Student Assessment & Performance

**AB 2363 (FIREBAUGH)** State Board of  
Education Composition

#### *Comprehensive Review*

**SB 1665 (POLANCO)** English Learners:  
Instruction and Materials



# Protecting the Rights of English Language Learners in California's Public Schools

- The student population in California is 6 million students, and 1.5 million of these are English Language Learners. These students constitute a quarter of the total enrollment in public schools.
- California enrolls approximately 40% of the English Learners enrolled in public schools throughout the nation.
- Languages spoken by English Language Learners in California:

SPANISH	83.4%	PILIPINO	1.2%
MANDARIN	0.7%	CANTONESE	1.7%
ARMENIAN	0.8%	HMONG	1.8%
KOREAN	1.1%	VIETNAMESE	2.5%
KHMER	1.0%		

# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



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## LANGUAGE RIGHTS POLICY INITIATIVES

*Provide Access to Government Services for All Californians*

**PRINCIPLE: ENSURE THAT STATE AGENCIES COMPLY WITH THE DYMALLY-ALATORRE BILINGUAL SERVICES ACT.**

Demographics require that attention be paid to the problem of inadequate access to government services. By the year 2025, Latinos will comprise a majority of California's population. Additionally, from 1970 to 1998, the state's Asian population grew by 500 percent. Moreover, the number of Californians age five and over who speak a language other than English has increased since 1990 by 3.5 million, from 8.6 million to 12.1 million.

### **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:**

- STRENGTHEN THE MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE DYMALLY-ALATORRE BILINGUAL SERVICES ACT.
- ENSURE THAT EVERY CALIFORNIAN HAS THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN HEALTHCARE, START A SMALL BUSINESS, RECEIVE WAGES THAT ARE OWED, OBTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION, AND ACCESS THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

**SB 987 (ESCUTIA)** Dymally-Alatorre  
Bilingual Services Act

**SB 1974 (POLANCO)** Insurance Policies



## **Providing Access to Government for all Californians**

- 1 out of 8 adults do not speak English fluently.
- The number of Californians age five and over who speak a language other than English increased by 3.5 million since 1990, from 8.6 million to 12.1 million.
- The number of Californians age five and over who speak little or no English increased by 40% since 1990, from 2.33 million to 3.26 million.

# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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## HOUSING POLICY INITIATIVES

### *Increasing California's Affordable Housing Supply*

#### **PRINCIPLE: INCREASE HOUSING PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA.**

Affordability is the most significant housing problem confronting California's families. The underproduction of housing has resulted in statewide housing shortages that have made housing unaffordable and homeownership opportunities minimal.

#### **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:**

- PROVIDE HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE AS AN INCENTIVE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO LESSEN AND REMOVE REGULATORY BARRIERS TO HOUSING AND, ULTIMATELY, INCREASE HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.
- INCREASE THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH HOUSING TRUST FUNDS AND LOCAL HOUSING BONDS.

**SB 1564 (POLANCO)** Manufactured Homes-Real Property Financing Options

**SB 1684 (POLANCO)** Removing Hazardous Substances from Redevelopment Areas

**SCR 13 (ALARCON)** Lower the threshold from 2/3 to majority vote to pass local housing bonds

**AB 1170 (FIREBAUGH)** Building Equity and Growth in Neighborhoods (BEGIN)

**AB 1891 (DIAZ)** Local Housing Trust Funds

**AB 1822 (VARGAS)** Construction Contractors Line of Credit and Management Assistance

**AB 2495 (CORREA)** Installation of Multi-Family manufactured housing in mobile home parks



# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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## HOUSING POLICY INITIATIVES

### *Special Needs Housing*

**PRINCIPLE:** SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING FOR OUR MOST NEEDY CALIFORNIANS.

Issues of farm worker housing, senior housing and the environmental quality of California's housing stock are important and must be addressed.

#### **ACTION PROPOSALS:**

- PROVIDE SAFE AND ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR CALIFORNIA'S FARM WORKERS.
- ENSURE THAT CALIFORNIA'S LOW-INCOME SENIORS HAVE ACCESS TO FEDERAL SUBSIDIES HOUSING.
- PROTECT CALIFORNIA'S CHILDREN FROM LEAD POISONING THAT CAN RESULT IN LEARNING DISABILITIES AND REDUCED IQ LEVELS.

**AB 628 (OROPEZA)** Funding projects for Low-income Seniors losing Section 8 vouchers

**AB 1721 (SOTO)** Land use: Farm Worker housing.

**AB 2043 (SALINAS)** Farm Worker Housing Grant Program

**AB 2261 (CARDENAS)** Childhood lead poisoning prevention enforcement

### *Support the Housing Bond of 2002*

- THE LATINO CAUCUS ENDORSES THE HOUSING BOND OF 2002 (SB 1227) AND MAKES PASSAGE A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE NOVEMBER ELECTION.



## **Housing Affordability and Availability**

- The State's home ownership rate is at 55%, the second lowest in the nation. Fewer than half of the state's Latino households (42 %) own their own homes.
- Latinos represent a mere 6.9% of all first-time homebuyers in California.
- Nine of the ten least affordable housing markets in the nations are in California.
- California's median home price is expected to reach \$280,000 in 2002. A family earning the state's median income (\$43,800) would need to double its income in order to afford the state's median-priced home.
- 50.4% of elderly renters pay 30% or more of their income for rent.
- 37% of low-income renters pay 50% or more of their income for rent.
- 60% of the rental housing in California is substandard.
- California faces loss of existing federally funded housing stock- 92,000 Section 8 units have contracts expiring by 2002.

# CALIFORNIA LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

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## 2002 BUDGET PRIORITIES

*California's Budget Must Treat All Californians Fairly*

**PRINCIPLE:** ENSURE THAT THE 2002 STATE BUDGET IS NOT BALANCED ON THE BACKS OF CALIFORNIA'S MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES—OUR CHILDREN, SENIORS, WORKING FAMILIES AND IMMIGRANTS.

### **ACTION PROPOSALS:**

- MAINTAIN THE CRITICAL SAFETY NET FOR THE MOST DISADVANTAGED.
- ENSURE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MOST NEEDY STUDENTS.
- PROTECT OUR YOUNGEST CALIFORNIANS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION.
- FAIRLY DISTRIBUTE CULTURAL AND ARTS FUNDING TO ALL COMMUNITIES.

### **HEALTH BUDGET ITEMS:**

- Expand the Healthy Families Program to Parents
- Maintain the current cancer research efforts
- Maintain the Child Health & Disability Prevention Program (CHDP)
- Maintain "Expanded Access to Primary Care Program"
- Maintain the Rural Health Demonstration Projects



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## 2002 BUDGET PRIORITIES

**CONTINUED:**

### **SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET ITEMS:**

- Ensure Childcare is effectively addressed in State Budget
- Maintain the SSI/SSP and CalWORKS COLAs
- Maintain Food Assistance for Immigrants
- Preserve Funding for Naturalization Services Program

### **EDUCATION BUDGET ITEMS:**

- Preserve Funding for Low Performing Schools
- Provide Funding for UC Dual Admissions Program
- Maintain Funding Level for K-12 Outreach Programs

### **ENVIRONMENT BUDGET ITEMS:**

- Maintain School Bus Program
- Restore Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) Programs

### **CULTURE & ARTS BUDGET ITEMS:**

- Ensure Diversity in California Arts Council Processes

A low-angle photograph of the California State Capitol building, showing the iconic dome and the American flag flying on a tall pole against a clear blue sky. The building's white columns and ornate details are visible.

# **BUDGET PRIORITIES:** **California's Budget Must** **Treat All Californians Fairly**

## **1. Health and Social Services:**

Maintain the critical safety net for the most disadvantaged.

## **2. Education:**

Ensure educational opportunities for the most needy students.

## **3. Environment:**

Protect our youngest Californians from environmental pollution.

## **4. Culture & Arts:**

Fairly distribute cultural and arts funding to all communities.